

After this time of leave and reflection, I have decided to not return to my position as Executive Director of Metro Arts effective May 4th. It has been an honor and a joy to be a part of this work for nearly 11 years. I am proud of the great leaps and bounds by which the public art program and the agency has grown and evolved. It has been a labor of love for me. The beginning of my life as a mother - my two children are now 10 and 13 - will forever be entwined with my time at Metro Arts. My true passion and dedication to the mission is what has kept me going through some very long days, and my belief that we are making the world a better place for them to grow into.

I certainly am deeply sorry for anyone who has felt marginalized or unheard. That was never my intent, but has clearly been the impact. The divisive nature of the recent events has been disheartening. I continue to encourage pursuit of understanding, conversations with each other, and review of the facts before making judgements. Nashville's artists and cultural organizations are facing so many challenges right now, and I don't want to add to or distract from those challenges.

Conflicts are necessary and good when they bring about positive change, but all involved need to want that. Art has the power to bridge gaps in understanding. We as practitioners and administrators happen to be uniquely positioned to lead our community forward in ways that are healing for us all.

I have the utmost respect and appreciation for the amazing staff at Metro Arts - true public servants; the Commissioners, who have been great leaders, mentors and friends over this last decade; and the larger Metro community, within which I found a work home and a purpose: to make our city better. And last, but not least, I am forever grateful to the great artists and arts organizations that make up the truly vibrant community that we are lucky to call our home. For without them, none of this would be possible.

After a period of transition, I look forward to continuing my work as an arts supporter and advocate, yet in a different form.

Much gratitude and appreciation,  
**Caroline**

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Executive Director

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